

§ 2.69

18 CFR Ch. I (4–1–12 Edition)

with respect to property constructed or acquired after January 1, 1970, to the extent to which such property increases the productive or operational capacity of the utility and is not a replacement of existing capacity. Such normalization will also be permitted for ratemaking purposes. As to balances in Account No. 282 of the Uniform System of Accounts, “Accumulated deferred income taxes—Other property,” it will remain the Commission’s policy to deduct such balances from the rate base of natural gas pipeline companies in rate proceedings.

(Secs. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 301, 304, 308, and 309 (41 Stat. 1063–1066, 1068, 1072, 1075; 49 Stat. 838, 839, 840, 841, 854–856, 858–859; 52 Stat. 822, 823, 825, 826; 76 Stat. 72; 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 796, 797, 803, 808, 809, 816, 825, 825b, 825c, 825g, 825h, 826i); as amended, secs. 8, 10, and 16 (52 Stat. 825–826, 830; 15 U.S.C. 717c, 717d, 717g, 717h, 717i, 717o))

[Order 404, 35 FR 7964, May 23, 1970, as amended by Order 567, 42 FR 30612, June 16, 1977]

§ 2.69 [Reserved]

§ 2.76 Regulatory treatment of payments made in lieu of take-or-pay obligations.

With respect to payments made to a first seller of natural gas as consideration for waiving or revising any agreement for the first sale of natural gas, as defined by section (2)(21) of the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA), the Commission sets forth the following statement of general policy and interpretation of law.

(a) *Payments in consideration.* A first seller of natural gas that receives payments as consideration for amending or waiving the take-or-pay or similar minimum payment provisions of a contract for the first sale of natural gas is not in violation of section 504(a) of the NGPA.

(b) *Recovery in rates.* A pipeline that makes any payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section, to first sellers may file to recover such costs in any section 4(e) rate filing other than a filing to recover purchased gas costs.

(c) *Case-specific review.* A pipeline’s method of recovering these costs and how it should apportion them among customers will be addressed on a case-

by-case basis in the context of individual rate case filings.

(d) *Customers’ rights.* When a pipeline seeks to recover payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section, its customers will have the full opportunity contemplated by section 4 of the Natural Gas Act to raise questions as to the prudence of such payments, the apportionment of costs among customers proposed by the filing pipeline, and any other reasonably related matters.

(e) *Certificate amendments and abandonment.* With regard to natural gas the sale of which is subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act, if any payments referred to under paragraph (a) of this section are accompanied by a change in or a termination of, the first seller’s contractual obligation to provide natural gas service, the Commission will, as a general policy under sections 7(c) and 7(b) of the Natural Gas Act, expeditiously grant any certificate amendments or abandonment authorizations, required to effectuate such contractual or service modifications.

In cases where a producer abandonment application is based on payments made pursuant to this policy statement, the interstate pipeline making the payments will be deemed to have waived any right to oppose the abandonment.

[50 FR 16080, Apr. 24, 1985, as amended by Order 436, 50 FR 42487, Oct. 18, 1985]

§ 2.78 Utilization and conservation of natural resources—natural gas.

(a)(1) The national interests in the development and utilization of natural gas resources throughout the United States will be served by recognition and implementation of the following priority-of-service categories for use during periods of curtailed deliveries by jurisdictional pipeline companies:

(i) Residential, small commercial (less than 50 Mcf on a peak day).

(ii) Large commercial requirements (50 Mcf or more on a peak day), firm industrial requirements for plant protection, feedstock and process needs, and pipeline customer storage injection requirements.

(iii) All industrial requirements not specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii), (iv),

(v), (vi), (vii), (viii), or (ix) of this section.

(iv) Firm industrial requirements for boiler fuel use at less than 3,000 Mcf per day, but more than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(v) Firm industrial requirements for large volume (3,000 Mcf or more per day) boiler fuel use where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(vi) Interruptible requirements of more than 300 Mcf per day, but less than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(vii) Interruptible requirements of intermediate volumes (from 1,500 Mcf per day through 3,000 Mcf per day), where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(viii) Interruptible requirements of more than 3,000 Mcf per day, but less than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(ix) Interruptible requirements of more than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

(2) The priorities-of-deliveries set forth above will be applied to the deliveries of all jurisdictional pipeline companies during periods of curtailment on each company's system; except, however, that, upon a finding of extraordinary circumstances after hearing initiated by a petition filed under § 385.207 of this chapter, exceptions to those priorities may be permitted.

(3) The above list of priorities requires the full curtailment of the lower priority category volumes to be accomplished before curtailment of any higher priority volumes is commenced. Additionally, the above list requires both the direct and indirect customers of the pipeline that use gas for similar purposes to be placed in the same category of priority.

(4) The tariffs filed with this Commission should contain provisions that will reflect sufficient flexibility to permit pipeline companies to respond to emergency situations (including environmental emergencies) during periods of curtailment where supplemental de-

liveries are required to forestall irreparable injury to life or property.

(b) Request for relief from curtailment shall be filed under § 385.1501 of this chapter. Those petitions shall use the priorities set forth in (paragraph (a)(1) of this section) above, the definitions contained in paragraph (b)(3) of this section and shall contain the following minimal information:

(1) The specific amount of natural gas deliveries requested on peak day and monthly basis, and the type of contract under which the deliveries would be made.

(2) The estimated duration of the relief requested.

(3) A breakdown of all natural gas requirements on peak day and monthly bases at the plant site by specific end-uses.

(4) The specific end-uses to which the natural gas requested will be utilized and should also reflect the scheduling within each particular end-use with and without the relief requested.

(5) The estimated peak day and monthly volumes of natural gas which would be available with and without the relief requested from all sources of supply for the period specified in the request.

(6) A description of existing alternate fuel capabilities on peak day and monthly bases broken down by end-uses as shown in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(7) For the alternate fuels shown in paragraph (b)(5) of this section, provide a description of the existing storage facilities and the amount of present fuel inventory, names and addresses of existing alternate fuel suppliers, and anticipated delivery schedules for the period for which relief is sought.

(8) The current price per million Btu for natural gas supplies and alternate fuels supplies.

(9) A description of efforts to secure natural gas and alternate fuels, including documentation of contacts with the Federal Energy Office and any state or local fuel allocation agencies or public utility commission.

(10) A description of all fuel conservation activities undertaken in the facility for which relief is sought.

(11) If petitioner is a local natural gas distributor, a description of the

currently effective curtailment program and details regarding any flexibility which may be available by effectuating additional curtailment to its existing industrial customers. The distributor should also provide a breakdown of the estimated disposition of its natural gas estimated to be available by end-use priorities established in paragraph (a)(1) of this section for the period for which relief is sought.

(c) When used in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the following terms will be defined as follows:

(1) *Residential*. Service to customers which consists of direct natural gas usage in a residential dwelling for space heating, air conditioning, cooking, water heating, and other residential uses.

(2) *Commercial*. Service to customers engaged primarily in the sale of goods or services including institutions and local, state, and federal government agencies for uses other than those involving manufacturing or electric power generation.

(3) *Industrial*. Service to customers engaged primarily in a process which creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product including the generation of electric power.

(4) *Firm service*. Service from schedules or contracts under which seller is expressly obligated to deliver specific volumes within a given time period and which anticipates no interruptions, but which may permit unexpected interruption in case the supply to higher priority customers is threatened.

(5) *Interruptible service*. Service from schedules or contracts under which seller is not expressly obligated to deliver specific volumes within a given time period, and which anticipates and permits interruption on short notice, or service under schedules or contracts which expressly or impliedly require installation of alternate fuel capability.

(6) *Plant protection gas*. Is defined as minimum volumes required to prevent physical harm to the plant facilities or danger to plant personnel when such protection cannot be afforded through the use of an alternate fuel. This includes the protection of such material in process as would otherwise be de-

stroyed, but shall not include deliveries required to maintain plant production. For the purposes of this definition propane and other gaseous fuels shall not be considered alternate fuels.

(7) *Feedstock gas*. Is defined as natural gas used as raw material for its chemical properties in creating an end product.

(8) *Process gas*. Is defined as gas use for which alternate fuels are not technically feasible such as in applications requiring precise temperature controls and precise flame characteristics. For the purposes of this definition propane and other gaseous fuels shall not be considered alternate fuels.

(9) *Boiler fuel*. Is considered to be natural gas used as a fuel for the generation of steam or electricity, including the utilization of gas turbines for the generation of electricity.

(10) *Alternate fuel capabilities*. Is defined as a situation where an alternate fuel could have been utilized whether or not the facilities for such use have actually been installed; *Provided, however*, Where the use of natural gas is for plant protection, feedstock, or process uses and the only alternate fuel is propane or other gaseous fuel then the consumer will be treated as if he had no alternate fuel capability.

(Sec. 4, 52 Stat. 822, 76 Stat. 72 (15 U.S.C. 717c); Sec. 5, 52 Stat. 823 (15 U.S.C. 717d); Sec. 7, 52 Stat. 824, 825, 56 Stat. 83, 84, 61 Stat. 459 (15 U.S.C. 717f); Sec. 10, 52 Stat. 826 (15 U.S.C. 717i); Sec. 14, 52 Stat. 820 (15 U.S.C. 717m); Sec. 15, 52 Stat. 829 (15 U.S.C. 717n); Sec. 16, 52 Stat. 930 (15 U.S.C. 717o); Pub. L. 96-511, 94 Stat. 2812 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*))

[Order 467A, 38 FR 2171, Jan. 22, 1973, as amended by Order 467B, 38 FR 6386, Mar. 9, 1973; Order 493-A, 38 FR 30433, Nov. 5, 1973; Order 467-C, 39 FR 12984, Apr. 10, 1974; Order 225, 47 FR 19055, May 3, 1982]

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.80-2.82 issued under secs. 4, 10, 15, 307, 309, 311 and 312 (41 Stat. 1065, 1066, 1068, 1070; 46 Stat. 798, 49 Stat. 839, 840, 841, 942, 843, 844, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, Stat. 501, 82 Stat. 617; 16 U.S.C. 797, 803, 808, 825f, 825h, 825j, 825k), and the Natural Gas Act, particularly secs. 7 and 16 (52 Stat. 824, 825, 830, 56 Stat. 83, 84; 61 Stat. 459; 15 U.S.C. 717f, 717o), and the National Environmental

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

§ 2.104

Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. 91-190, approved January 1, 1970, particularly secs. 102 and 103 (83 Stat. 853, 854), unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.80 Detailed environmental statement.

(a) It will be the general policy of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt and to adhere to the objectives and aims of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) in its regulations promulgated for statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including the Federal Power Act, the Natural Gas Act and the Natural Gas Policy Act. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires, among other things, all Federal agencies to include a detailed environmental statement in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

(b) Therefore, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Commission staff will make a detailed environmental statement when the regulatory action taken by the Commission under the statutes under the jurisdiction of the Commission will have a significant environmental impact. The specific regulations implementing NEPA are contained in part 380 of the Commission's regulations.

[Order 486, 52 FR 47910, Dec. 17, 1987]

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY TO IMPLEMENT THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 1970, AS AMENDED, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS 11615 AND 11627

AUTHORITY: Sections 2.90 through 2.102 issued under 84 Stat. 799, as amended, 85 Stat. 38, unless otherwise noted.

§§ 2.100-2.102 [Reserved]

§ 2.103 Statement of policy respecting take or pay provisions in gas purchase contracts.

(a) Recognizing that take or pay contract obligations may be shielding the prices of deregulated and other higher cost gas from market constraints, the Commission sets forth its general policy regarding prepayments for natural gas pursuant to take or pay provisions in gas contracts and amendments

thereto between producers and interstate pipelines which become effective December 23, 1982. The provisions of this policy statement do not establish a binding norm but instead provide general guidance. In particular cases, both the underlying validity of the policy and its application to particular facts may be challenged and are subject to further consideration.

(b) With respect to gas purchase contracts entered into on or after December 23, 1982, the Commission intends to apply a rebuttable presumption in general rate cases that prepayments to producers will not be given rate base treatment if the prepayments are made pursuant to take or pay requirements in such gas purchase contracts or amendments which exceed 75 percent of annual deliverability.

(Natural Gas Act, 15 U.S.C. 717-717w; Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-621, 92 Stat. 3350, 15 U.S.C. 3301-3432)

[47 FR 57269, Dec. 23, 1982]

§ 2.104 Mechanisms for passthrough of pipeline take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs.

(a) *General Policy.* The Commission as a matter of policy will provide two distinct mechanisms for passthrough of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs of interstate natural gas pipelines. The first is pursuant to existing Commission policy and practice. Under this method, pipelines may pass through prudently incurred take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs in their sales commodity rates. The second method is available to pipelines which agree to an equitable sharing of take-or-pay costs and which transport under part 284 of this chapter. Qualifying pipelines may utilize the alternative passthrough mechanisms described in this section. Where a pipeline agrees to absorb from 25 to 50 percent of take-or-pay buyout and buydown costs, the Commission will permit the pipeline to recover through a fixed charge an amount equal to (but not greater than) the amount absorbed. Any remaining costs up to 50 percent of total buyout and buydown costs may be recovered either through a commodity rate surcharge or a volumetric surcharge on total throughput.